

I CLAIM:

1 A detection system for sensing an embedded data signal within an audio signal notwithstanding temporal imperfections in the audio signal that change its pitch, the embedded data signal being substantially inaudible to a listener of the audio signal, the system characterized by plural detectors receiving the same input signal, a first of said detectors being operable to sense the embedded signal if the audio signal has a first temporal imperfection leading to a first change in pitch, a second of said detectors being operable to sense the embedded signal if the audio signal has a second temporal imperfection leading to a second, different, change in pitch.

10 2. The system of claim 1 in which the plural detectors are arranged in parallel.

3. The system of claim 1 in which the plural detectors are implemented by hardware circuitry.

15 4. The system of claim 3 in which the plural detectors are all fabricated within a single integrated circuit.

5. The system of claim 1 in which the plural detectors are implemented in a digital signal processing network.

20 6. The system of claim 1 in which the embedded signal is used to signal that copying of the audio should be limited.

7. The system of claim 1 in which the temporal imperfections arise from variation in playback speed.

25 8. The system of claim 1 that further includes an analog-to-digital converter for receiving an input analog signal, and for providing a digital counterpart thereto to the detectors.

9. The system of claim 1 that uses the embedded data signal in identification of the audio signal encoded therewith.

30 10. The system of claim 1 that further includes a circuit to confirm that the sensed data signal persists for a predetermined period before indicating that the embedded data signal has been detected.

35 11. A monitoring station that monitors plural audio streams by using plural detection systems according to claim 1.